

REPORT

OF

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,

IN ANSWER TO

A resolution of the Senate calling for a statement showing the names and appropriate description of all vessels of the navy of the United States which have been captured, lost, or destroyed, &c.

MARCH 1, 1859.—Read ; motion to print referred to the Committee on Printing.

MARCH 2, 1859.—Report in favor of printing the usual number submitted, considered, and agreed to.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
February 26, 1859.

SIR: In reply to the resolution of the Senate adopted February 25, 1858, directing the Secretary of the Navy to "furnish to the Senate in tabular form a statement showing the names and appropriate description of all vessels of the navy of the United States which have been captured, lost, or destroyed," &c., I have the honor to submit herewith a tabular statement containing the information called for, so far as it has been practicable to obtain it from the files and records of the department.

With respect to so much of the resolution as inquires whether any vessels captured by the enemy in a neutral port "have been reclaimed from the enemy or from any neutral power," and whether any merchant vessel justly captured by the United States navy "has, from motives dictated by state policy, been taken from the captors and restored to previous owners," the department addressed a communication to the Secretary of State, a copy of which and of the reply is herewith transmitted.

The department has no official knowledge of any "ships-of-war or armed vessels captured by our navy and subsequently taken into the service of the United States, failing a condemnation by our courts, or without a just and regular valuation of them having been made."

Information heretofore laid before Congress from this department and other sources, which appears to come within the scope of the present resolution, may be found in a printed form in the "American State Papers" volume of "Naval Affairs," pages 405, 415, 416. In

the case of the prize *Levant*, which was retaken by the enemy in a neutral port, the report of the committee of the House of Representatives was followed by an act of Congress, approved April 26, 1816, appropriating the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars for distribution among the commander, officers and crew of the frigate *Constitution*.

During the war with Mexico several prizes of inconsiderable value were taken into the public service, but it is believed that in every case there was a condemnation, an appraisement, and payment of the appraised value.

In any case where a prize has been taken into the public service and paid for, whether under the special authority of Congress or otherwise, it would be difficult for the department now to determine from any information in its possession that the compensation to the captors was other than "fair or equitable."

I am, very respectfully, &c.,

ISAAC TOUCEY.

Hon. JOHN C. BRECKINRIDGE,
President of the Senate.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *March 11, 1858.*

SIR: By resolutions of the Senate agreed to on the 25th ult., the Secretary of the Navy is directed to furnish a statement of "the names, character, and force of all prizes of enemy's vessels-of-war captured by the United State's navy which were taken by said enemy in neutral ports, by which the captors were deprived of a right to property therein, which right was conferred upon them by the law regulating the apportionment and distribution of prize money arising from captures made by equal or inferior forces; whether prizes so taken have been reclaimed from the enemy or from any neutral power which has thus, in violation of international law, permitted prizes so situated to be carried from its port or ports by an enemy. And further, how or whether the series captors have been compensated or sustained in their right to property thus acquired; and so far as the records of this department may not supply the information, that he cause the same to be compiled from other sources (if such there be) worthy, in his judgment, of reliance, designating in such case the one from the other."

And he is further directed to state "whether any merchant vessel has been justly captured by the United State's navy which has not been sent home for judicial examination or condemnation, but which has, from motives dictated by state policy, been taken from the captors, and restored to previous owners; whether any, and if any, a fair and equitable remuneration has been made to the captors for restorations thus made."

As the records of this department do not show in what cases reclamations have been made on foreign governments, founded on the re-capture in neutral ports of enemy's vessels-of-war captured by the United States navy; nor whether any merchant vessel captured by the United States navy has, from motives dictated by state policy, been

restored to previous owners, I have the honor to request, if the information required, or any part of it, exists in the Department of State, that it may be communicated to this department.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
I. TOUCEY.

Hon. LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of State.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, March 29, 1858.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, requesting certain information supposed to be in this department, called for by a resolution of the Senate of the 25th of last month. In reply I have the honor to inform you that, after the most diligent search, no information of the character desired can be found in this department.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,
LEWIS CASS.

Hon. ISAAC TOUCEY,
Secretary of the Navy.

Statement of vessels of the navy of the United States which have been captured, lost, or destroyed since the year 1798.

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NAMES OF VESSELS CAPTURED, LOST, OR DESTROYED.

Name of vessel	Rate.	Guns.	Commanded by—	Captured, lost, or destroyed.	Where it occurred.	Time.	Remarks.
Albany	Sloop.....	20	Com. J. T. Gerry	Lost.....	Gulf of Mexico.....	Sept., 1854..	Court of inquiry, December 13, 1822; conduct of Lieut. D. and crew praiseworthy.
Alert	Ship.....	20	.....	Broken up.....	Norfolk.....	1829.....
Alligator	Schooner..	4	Lieut. R. Basset.....	Sunk.....	Port Royal Sound.....	July 11, 1814	
Alligator	Schooner..	12	Lieut. J. M. Dale	Lost	Carysfort reef.....	1822.....	
Alligator	Sloop.....	1	Sailing Master R. Sheppard ..	Captured	New Orleans.....	1814.....	Court of inquiry, April 18, 1815; no blame, except of a seaman and boy.
Argus	Ship.....	18	.....	Burnt.....	Washington.....	1814.....
Argus	Sloop.....	16	Master Com. W. H. Allen.....	Captured.....	English channel.....	Aug. 14, 1813	
Boston.....	Ship.....	28	.....	Burnt	Washington.....	1814.....
Boston.....	Ship.....	18	Com. G. F. Pearson	Lost	Eletheura, West Indies.	1846.....	Court martial, January, 1847; Commander Pearson and Lieut. F. S. Haggerty each sentenced to be suspended for one year and admonished by the Secretary of the Navy; sentences approved and executed.
Boxer	Brig.....	14	Lieut. J. Porter	Lost.....	Off Balize.....	1817.....	
Carolina	Schooner..	14	Com. J. D. Henley.....	Blew up ..	New Orleans	1814.....	
Chesapeake	Ship.....	36	Captain J. Lawrence	Captured	Off Boston	June 1, 1813	
Chippewa	Brig.....	14	Lieut. G. C. Read	Lost	Caicos, West Indies ..	1816.....	Court of inquiry, Jan. 30, 1817; no blame imputed.
Columbia	Ship.....	44	.....	Burnt	On the stocks	1814.....
Concord.....	Ship.....	18	Com. W. Boerum	Lost	East coast of Africa..	1843.....	
Congress	Ship.....	36	Captain J. Sever.....	Broken up ..	Norfolk.....	1836.....	
Cyane.....	Ship.....	34	do.....	Philadelphia.....	1836.....	Court of inquiry, April 4, 1814; no blame imputed.
Eagle .....	.....	3	Lieut. Sidney Smith.....	Captured.....	Lake Champlain.....	Jan. 3, 1813
Edith	Steamer....	2	Lieut. J. McCormick.....	Lost.....	California.....	1849.....	
Enterprise	Schooner..	12	Lieut. J. Gallagher	Lost.....	Little Curaçoa.....	1823.....	
Epervier	Ship.....	18	Lieut. J. T. Shubrick	Lost.....	At sea	1815.....	Court of inquiry, Jan. 9, 1850; no blame imputed.
Etna.....	Bomb brig..	11	.....	Lost.....	New Orleans.....	1812.....
Erie	Ship.....	18	.....	Broken up ..	Boston	1841.....
Essex	Ship.....	32	Captain D. Porter	Captured	Valparaiso.....	Mar. 28, 1814	
Ferret.....	Schooner..	8	Lieut. L. Kearny	Lost.....	Stony inlet.....	1814.....	Court of inquiry, April 11, 1814; no blame imputed.
Ferret.....	Schooner..	3	Midshipman S. M. Booth.....	Lost.....	West Indies.....	1825.....	
Frolic	Ship.....	18	Master Com. J. Bainbridge.....	Captured.....	Off Havana	April 20, 1814	
Fulton	Steamship..	30	Master Com. J. T. Newton.....	Blew up	Brooklyn	1829.....	
Grampus	Schooner..	12	Lieut. A. E. Downes	Lost.....	Off Charleston.....	1843.....	Court of inquiry, July 6, 1829; no blame imputed.
General Green	Ship.....	28	Captain C. R. Perry	Burnt.....	Washington.....	1814.....	
Greenwich	Ship.....	16	Lieut. J. M. Gamble	Burnt	Marquesas islands ..	1814.....	
Growler	Sloop.....	3	Lieut. S. Smith	Captured	Lake Champlain	June 3, 1813	
Growler	Schooner..	2	Lieut. D. Deacon	Captured.....	Lake Ontario.....	Aug. 10, 1813	Court of inquiry, April 4, 1814; no blame imputed.
Guerriere	Ship.....	44	.....	Broken up ..	Norfolk.....	1841.....
Gun-boat No. 158	Gun-boat ..	1	Lieut. U. P. Levy	Lost	Bay of Honduras.....	Feb. 12, 1823	
.....	Court of inquiry, June 17, 1823; loss ascribable to greater degree of confidence in the pilot than is warranted in any case.

NAMES OF VESSELS CAPTURED, LOST, OR DESTROYED.

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STATEMENT—Continued.

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NAMES OF VESSELS CAPTURED, LOST, OR DESTROYED.

Name of vessel.	Rate.	Guns.	Commanded by—	Captured, lost, or destroyed.	Where it occurred.	Time.	Remarks.
Vixen	Brig.	14	Capt. Thomas Hall.	Captured	At sea	1813.	Court of inquiry, Dec. 28, 1812; no blame imputed.
Washington.	Ship.	74	.....	Broken up.	New York.	1843.
Wasp.	Schooner..	18	Master Com. J. Jones.	Captured	At sea	1812.	Court martial, January 27, 1851; Commander Marston tried for improper navigation, &c., and honorably acquitted.
Wasp.	Ship.	18	Master Com. J. Blakely.	Lost.	At sea.	1814.	
Wild Cat	Schooner..	3	Lieut. B. Kennon.	Lost.	West Indies.	1824.	
Yorktown.	Sloop.	16	Com. John Marston.	Lost.	Island of Mayo.	Sept. 1850 ...	



